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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/236,339	01/25/1999	SEIICHI KASHIWABA	865.4327	1626

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

NGUYEN, THONG Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2872	

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Advisory Action**

Application No.

09/236,339

**Applicant(s)**

KASHIWABA ET AL.

Examiner

Thong Q. Nguyen

Art Unit

2872

*--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

THE REPLY FILED 27 December 2002 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

**PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]**

a)  The period for reply expires 6 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.  
b)  The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.  
**ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).**

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1.  A Notice of Appeal was filed on 27 December 2002. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2.  The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
  - (a)  they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
  - (b)  they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
  - (c)  they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
  - (d)  they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

**NOTE:** See Continuation Sheet.

3.  Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): See Continuation Sheet.
4.  Newly proposed or amended claim(s) 19 and 20 if further amended to overcome the problem of 35 USC 112, second paragraph as shown in this Advisory action would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5.  The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6.  The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7.  For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: None.

Claim(s) objected to: None.

Claim(s) rejected: 1-3, 6-11 and 19-22.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: \_\_\_\_\_.

8.  The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.
9.  Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
10.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

Thong Q. Nguyen  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 2872

Continuation of 2. NOTE: the amendments to claims 1, 11, 19 and 20 raise new problem of 35 USC 112, second paragraph. In particular, the feature concerning the "optical axes of said first holding member and said second holding member during the coupling operation" (claim 1, lines 11-12) is indefinite because the holding member does not have optical axis. The optical member held by the holding member has optical axis, not the holding member itself. Similar feature in each claim 11, 19 and 20 make those claims indefinite.

Continuation of 3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): 1) the objection to the drawings; and 2) the rejections of claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph set forth in the previous Office action (Paper No. 24, pages 3-5); and 3) the double patenting objections to claims 21 and 22 due to the cancelation of those claims.

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: the deformable ring 32 located between the second base plate (16) and the coupling members (34) provided by Sezerman acts as a deformable element that restricts the deformation of the first base plate (18). Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive..